Gas pipeline between Jagdishpur and Haldia

1426. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the progress made by GAIL in laying a gas pipeline from Jagdishpur in Uttar Pradesh to Haldia in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): Based on preliminary study, GAIL proposes to lay a natural gas pipeline from Jagdishpur in UP to Haldia in West Bengal. However, the progress of the pipeline project is dependent on the sourcing of gas and down stream marketing tie-ups.

Hike in price of gas

†1427. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recommendations made by the Group of Ministers with regard to the hike in the prices of gas;

(b) by when a final decision is likely to be taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether the Central Government have received a representation from the Government of Gujarat in which it has been requested that State Government's representation may be considered before taking a final decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Group of Ministers, which was constituted in December 2002, have, after various meetings, recommended the following:

(i) Reference to Tariff Commission to determine producer price of gas for ONGC and OIL, and transportation tariff of GAIL's HBJ pipeline. The Tariff Commission to submit report within six months.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) An *ad-hoc* increase of Rs. 350/MCM (thousand cubic meter) in consumer price of gas, for general consumers.

(iii) An *ad-hoc* increase of Rs. 10/MCM in HBJ transportation tariff.

(iv) Gas produced by Joint ventures to be sold at market determined prices.

(v) Gas Pool Account to be limited to Rs. 100 crore.

(b) Government will take decision taking into account all pros and cons of the issues involved. No time frame has been fixed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Production of natural gas

1428. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of natural gas produced from different sources in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and other States during the last three years and 2004 so far;

(b) the amount and rate of royalty paid to each state;

(c) whether any enactment or regulatory model is contemplated to enable the states to frame their own policy for exploitation of their petroleum and gas resources in the light of the recent judgment of the Supreme Court; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.